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Executive Registry

May 22, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter, DDCI

Yesterday we again met with the Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee and, among other things, reviewed the most recent information on ICBM and IRBM sites obtained from satellite photography.

I am impressed with our increasing dependence on this source of hard intelligence, and while satellite photography represents the best, and probably the most dependable information available to us, nevertheless I believe that we should be careful that we do not depend solely and exclusively on this source.

I am impressed with the fact that it is very easy for the Soviets to deceive us by a modest amount of clearing and excavation which would present an ICBM or IRBM "signature." Likewise, they could resort to new methods of camouflage, and thus mislead us in another direction.

I know that DDP holds the problem of verification of Seviet missile sites as a matter of highest priority, and I think, and have told Mr. Helms, that he should exert every possible effort to verify by other means a few of the sites that we have identified. Also, it is important to point out to those who receive briefings on the results an extellite photography that there is a possibility for deception which would be quite difficult to detect.

It might be constructive if you, Dick Helms, and I would review the steps that might be taken to verify and prove photographic intelligence.

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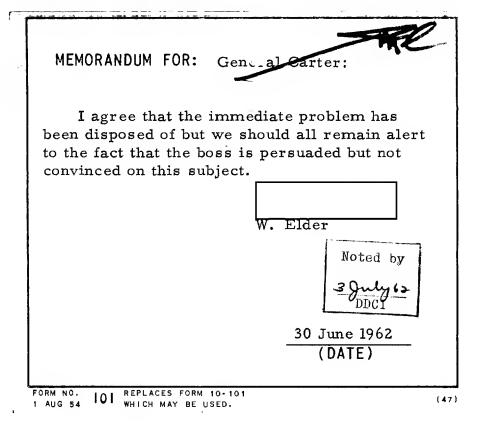
John A. McCone Director

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